Stepping up of Pak ISI operations

1068. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 20th December, 1991. captioned "Pak stepping up ISI operations";

(b) If so, whether the activities of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan have been spreading in the neighbouring countries also;

(c) whether the ISI has been operating in India at a vast scale; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir-

(b) Regrettably, in contravention of the universally accepted norms of inter-state conduct. Pakistan is misusing the territory of neighbouring countries in carrying out its terrorist activities directed against India*

(c) Government are aware of the aim of Pak ISI to carry out espionage, subversion and sabotage in India in a clandestine manner.

(d) Government have conveyed its concern to neighbouring countries about anti-India activities being carried out by Pakistan from their soil.

Government have and will take all measures to combat the activities directed against the country's security interests.

Delegations visiting foreign countries

1069. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of delegations which visited other countries with an invitation from the host country Governments, during the last three years; and

(b) what are the details, country wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRs (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a)and(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending passport applications in Hyderabad

1070. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of passport applications that are pending with Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad ;

(b) since when these are pending ;

(c) what is the number of passports that are cleared every month; and

(d) what steps are being taken to minimise the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The total number of passport applications pending at PO Hyderabad as on 18-2-94 was 23516. The number of applications pending for over one month on 18-2-94 was 12489.

(c) The acfual number of passports issued varies from one month to another. The average number of passports, issued per month in 1993 by the Passport Office Hyderabad was 17924.

(d) Government have taken a number of steps to minimise delays and expedite the issue of passports which *inter alia* include augmen- tation of the staff strength, stabilising the supply of passport booklets, streamlining procedures and the introduction of a productivity linked incentive scheme.

1071. *[Transferred to the 1th March,* 1994.]

Russsian assurance to India over Kashmir

1072. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has assured India that emergence of ultra nationalist forces in its newly elected Parliament will not effect Indian factor in its foreign policy;